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Great (p. 20), German expansion and colonization eastward, 800-1400 (p. 71), and the races of Austria-Hungary (p. 500). At the head of each chapter are two or three "theme sentences", or suggestive quotations, the truth of which the pupil will realize as he reads and ponders the chapter. Another good feature is the report topics suggested for collateral reading or essays; they are usually upon interesting subjects which text-books often incorporate, but which Mr. West has excluded in order to have more room for solid facts. There are also helpful suggestions to teachers for drill-work and reviews, and a good bibliography, though the names of some of the authors are misspelled.

With a good teacher, and an earnest, rather advanced pupil this is one of the best text-books that can be used. There is more in it and more can be gotten from it than is the case with the other books which cover the same field. But that it will interest the average pupil we are not certain; there is perhaps too much cut and dried classification, too much emphasis on political rather than social history, and too little to touch the imagination or to stimulate the pupil's independent thinking and reasoning concerning cause and effect. A hero is characterized by a few adjectives rather than by even a brief account of one of his deeds. To make the book completely successful, much illustrative and explanatory matter must be supplied by the teacher, for there are many pithy statements, which, standing alone as they do, are only half-truths, and liable to mislead a pupil. The minor errors, perhaps inevitable in the first edition of a text-book covering so wide a field, are easily corrected.

SIDNEY B. FAY.

Études sur le Règne de Hugues Capet et la Fin du X^e Siècle. Par FERDINAND LOT. [Fascicule 147 de la Bibliothèque de l'École des Hautes Études.] (Paris: Émile Bouillon. 1903. Pp. xl, 525.)

Fidèles ou Vassaux. Par FERDINAND LOT. (Paris: Émile Bouillon. 1904. Pp. xxxiv, 287.)

THE series of studies on the transition period in French history from the Carolingian to the Capetian house, planned by the late M. Arthur Giry and undertaken by his pupils in the École des Hautes Études, has received its latest and perhaps its last addition in the first of the above-named volumes. M. Lot is well known as the author of the earliest of the series, *Les Derniers Carolingiens* (1891), and also as the successor of M. Giry in his work of instruction in the École des Hautes Études. The present volume does not pretend to be a systematic history of the reign, or a biography of Hugh Capet, but it is, as its title declares, a series of studies on the period. There is a sketch of the events of the reign divided into two parts at the year 991, and there are especially detailed studies of the two important relations of the new royal power: to the papacy and the church, and to the great feudal barons.

Under the first of these, of particular interest is a sketch of the growth of an actual papal administrative and judicial power over the Gallican church. M. Lot shows how little of this there really was before the middle of the ninth century, and how rapidly it was developed after that date, beginning with the papacy of Nicholas I. This includes a study of the coming into use of the False Decretals and of the attitude toward them of Gerbert, who argued against some of their conclusions but did not question their authenticity. M. Lot shows once more the value to the crown in this period of the support of the church, and brings out more clearly than has been done before the much larger number of bishoprics and abbeys directly dependent on the king than on any of the great barons. In this particular the relative strength of the crown was far greater than in territory or in military resources. Incidentally the volume treats in some detail of the history of Gerbert, of whose letters — one of the chief sources of our knowledge of the age — M. Lot is preparing a new edition.

Under the head of relation to the great baronies, the author studies at some length each of these latter in this particular with many interesting details, but reaches no other conclusion than the great practical weakness of the crown. In both books he strongly asserts his belief that the "Duchy of France" was not a definite territory, but a regency of the kingdom. The elements of a reconstruction of the royal power are found in the ideas of the monarchy kept alive in the feudal relationship, in those held and taught by the church, and in the ideas of nationality and unity expressed in some of the oral literature of the time and so brought into popular consciousness. One-half the volume is devoted to appendixes on special points of chronology, of political history, on the surname Capet, etc. Of particular interest is one on the home, date, and author of the False Decretals, in which M. Lot decides in favor of Reims, shortly after 853, and on Vulfadus as the probable author, conclusions also reached by Lurz in his *Heimat Pseudo-Isidors*, published in 1898, but not before M. Lot's conclusions had been reached. Another very useful appendix gives a table of all the abbeys presumably in existence at the end of the tenth century, with place, name of the patron, and references to the sources.

In the second volume here reviewed M. Lot discusses an important point of institutional history of the same general period: were the great barons bound to the crown by a tie of vassalage, or by a looser and lighter bond of fealty only, which would give their practically independent sovereignties something more nearly a legal foundation? Luchaire and Glasson have inclined to the latter view, and it has been strongly advocated by Flach in the third volume of his *Origines*, reviewed in the July number of this REVIEW. Against this theory M. Lot argues vigorously, and in my opinion with entire success. He takes up one after another the baronies of the six lay peers of the thirteenth century, and studies in full detail their relations to the crown in this particular during the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth centuries. From a point soon after the begin-

ning of the twelfth century there ceases to be any question of the nature of the relationship, and the argument for that age is clearly demonstrative. For the two earlier centuries the evidence is rather of a probable character, and what M. Lot calls the *a priori* argument is of more importance than he seems inclined to admit. Some parts of this could have been developed more at length with advantage, as for example the consideration that there is no point between the beginning of the tenth century and the middle of the thirteenth when it would have been possible for a weak Capetian king to have transformed the supposed loose tie of mere fealty into liege homage, and that any attempt to do it would have left indelible traces in the records of the age. Much depends on the argument to show that during this age fealty and vassalage were practically identical, or, as M. Lot expresses it, that fealty was not conceived of as a weaker bond than vassalage. This also could with profit have been given in greater detail. The argument is, however, convincing and conclusive as it stands. Although the book was written before the appearance of M. Flach's third volume, it is a valuable corrective of the peculiar teachings of that work.

GEORGE B. ADAMS.

Chronicon Adæ de Usk, A. D. 1377-1421. Edited with a translation and notes by SIR EDWARD MAUNDE THOMPSON, K.C.B. Second edition. (London: Royal Society of Literature; New York: Henry Frowde. 1904. Pp. xxxviii, 346.)

THE present work is an amplification of a previous edition (1876) by the same editor, which closed with 1404. The discovery of the missing part, in a manuscript of the Duke of Rutland's collection at Belvoir Castle, is one of the many services of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, and its identification is due to Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte. The new edition entirely replaces the old. It has more complete notes and a better and more extensive preface, and is, on the whole, a scholarly production.

Adam of Usk's *Chronicle* is important as a personal record of events in which the author, who was a prominent figure in his day, participated, rather than as a historical record of the times. Born at Usk in Monmouthshire about 1352, he attained a high record at Oxford. He took the degree of doctor of laws, was *extraordinarius* in canon law, and held a chair in civil law until 1392. From then until 1399 he practised in the episcopal courts of Canterbury, under patronage of Archbishop Arundel, as whose follower he joined Henry of Lancaster at Bristol in his successful attempt on the throne. Adam's mediation saved his native town from pillage, and his friend, the Lord of Powis, from the wrath of Henry. He was one of the commission of bishops, lords, and doctors appointed to draw up the charges upon which Richard II was deposed. Consequently, his chronicle abounds in interesting events of these years, beginning with the Parliament of 1397, at which he was present. His